

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 11, 2006 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 12-20 are added. Claim 2 is redrafted into independent form, without further revision. Claim 5/1 is redrafted into independent form as claim 5, without further revision. Claims 1-20 are pending, the independent claims being 1, 2 and 10.

Claims 4, 5 and 11 stand objected to for informalities.

The Office Action suggests that the phrase "the orientation" in claim 4 lacks antecedent basis in the claims. The applicant traverses. Clear antecedent basis is provided by the word "orientation" in parent claim 2.

As to claim 5, the Office Action fails to state a reason for the objection.

Claim 11 is amended in a manner believed to overcome the ground of rejection under 37 CFR 1.75(c).

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness, and has now been amended in a manner believed to overcome the ground of rejection.

Claims 1-4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German patent DE 100 08 053 to Graumann.

The instant applicant has not received a translation of the German patent.

Claim 2, now redrafted into independent form but not otherwise revised, recites, ". . . a flat, rectangular X-ray detector (3) which is rotatable around the connecting line (13) extending between the focal point of the X-ray source (2) and the center of the X-ray detector (3). . ."

Graumann fails to disclose that its detector 4 is rectangular or that it is "rotatable around the connecting line."

The Office Action cites to certain passages and figures in Graumann, but these, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, suggest or feature the above-mentioned aspects of the present claim 2.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1, as amended, recites ". . . a conical X-ray beam . . . controlling, rotationally on a central axis of said beam, orientation of the X-ray detector (3) during the detection of the X-rays."

Support for the amendment of claim 1 is found at least in [0009].

Claim 1 is deemed to be patentable over Graumann for at least the same reason set forth above for claim 2 with regard to rotating a detector.

Claim 10, as amended, recites, ". . . in order to maximize a reconstructable examination zone, moving, during said detection, the X-ray detector so as to off-center position of the X-ray detector from said beam and/or so as to change orientation of the X-ray detector relative to the X-ray source. . ."

Support for the amendment of claim 10 is found in at least [0009], [0037] and [0038].

Graumann does not disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 10, and merely discloses moving in the direction of the central beam.

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0091156 to Crain et al. ("Crain").

Claim 5/1 (i.e., claim 5 as dependent from the claim 1 parent) is now redrafted into independent form as claim 5, but not otherwise revised.

Claim 5 states:

means (14, 15) for changing the position and/or the orientation of the X-ray detector (3) are constructed in such a manner that the angle between the central ray (16) of the X-ray beam and the connecting line (13) extending between the focal point of the X-ray source (2) and the center of the X-ray detector (3) can assume a value other than zero, and that the control unit (11) is constructed in such a manner that at least two different angular positions are adjusted during the detection of the X-rays

Crain fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 5.

The Office Action cites to FIG. 10, but merely the positions changed are merely those of the source or collimator ([0056], first sentence).

For at least this reason, Crain fails to anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 5.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "... a conical X-ray beam ... controlling, rotationally on a central axis of said beam, orientation of the X-ray detector (3) during the detection of the X-rays."

Crain fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 1.

Claim 1 distinguishes patentably over Crain for at least this reason.

As to claim 2, Crain fails to disclose or suggest a detector "rotatable around the connecting line."

Claim 10, as amended, recites, "... in order to maximize a reconstructable examination zone, moving, during said detection, the X-ray detector so as to off-center position of the X-ray detector from said beam and/or so as to change orientation of the X-ray detector relative to the X-ray source. . ."

Claim 10 distinguishes patentably over Crain for at least this reason. Crain fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 10.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Crain in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,541,293 to Caugant et al. ("Caugant").

Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 5. Caugant relates to a track usable on X-ray equipment, but cannot make up for the shortcomings of Crain.

New claims 12-14 finds support at least in paragraphs [0037], [0040], [0023], respectively.

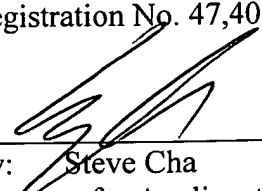
New claim 15 finds support at least in FIG. 1 and accompanying text in the specification.

Claims 16-20 find support at least in original claims 5-9 respectively. Claims 17 and 19 find additional support in FIG. 1b and accompanying text in the specification.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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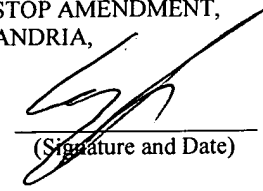
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